NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5666 MARCH 29, 1978
BOB CHANCELLOR/NAIROBI

ANDREW YOUNG ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS

ANNCR:

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ANDREW YOUNG, HAS ENDED A VISIT TO ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA IS ENROUTE FROM NAIROBI TO LAGOS, NIGERIA, WHERE HE WILL JOIN PRESIDENT CARTER. V.O.A.'S BOB CHANCELLOR HAS BEEN TRAVELLING WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SENT THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

TEXT:

AMBASSADOR YOUNG BELIEVES THE NEXT THIRTY TO SIXTY DAYS ARE CRUCIAL TO EVENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THAT WHAT OCCURS IN THAT PERIOD MAY WELL AFFECT WHAT OCCURS IN THE REGION FOR THE NEXT DECADE. AND HE SEEMS OPTIMISTIC THAT A MOMENTUM IS BEING CREATED THAT COULD LEAD TO RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF BOTH NAMIBIA, OR SOUTHWEST AFRICA, AND RHODESIA. THE U.N. AMBASSADOR WAS IN DAR ES SALAAM FOR THE WEEKEND MEETING OF THE AFRICAN FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS AND CONSULTED INFORMALLY WITH THAT GROUP THROUGH ITS CHAIRMAN, TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS NYERERE.

AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAYS THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS WENT A LONG WAY TOWARD ESTABLISHING A DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLA LEADERS TO WORK AS HARD, OR HARDER, TOWARD A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AS THEY HAD IN THE PAST TOWARD ACHIEVING VICTORY MILITARILY. IN AGREEING TO WORK TOWARD A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAYS, THE FRONTLINE STATES AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION TO ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN RHODESIA COMING TOGETHER IN A CONFERENCE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINS THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLAS FEEL A NEW POLITICAL SELF-CONFIDENCE BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THE INTERNAL RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS HAVE DISCREDITED THEMSELVES BY SIGNING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH. (OPT) THOSE DETAILS REMAINING TO BE WORKED OUT ARE MATTERS WHICH WERE UNRESOLVED AT THE RECENT MALTA CONFERENCE, SUCH AS THE FORM OF A ZIMBABWE MILITARY FORCE, AND THE ROLE OF THE BRITISH COMMISSIONER GENERAL DURING THE INTERIM BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. OFFICIALS TRAVELLING WITH THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVE THOSE DETAILS NOW COULD BE RESOLVED IN A VERY BRIEF MALTA-TYPE MEETING WHICH EXCLUDES THE RHODESIAN INTERNAL NATIONALISTS, OR EVEN IN A MILITARY SUB-COMMITTEE OF AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE. (END OPT)

IN REVIEWING THE FRONTLINE SUMMIT, AMBASSADOR YOUNG THINKS SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS MADE IN RELATION TO NAMIBIA, WHERE THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL SOON BE PRESENTING A FINAL SET OF PROPOSALS TO BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SOUTHWEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION. SOURCES SAID THOSE PROPOSALS COULD BE PRESENTED BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAYS A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THOSE PROPOSALS WILL BRING PROGRESS TO NAMIBIA THAT WILL INEVITABLY AFFECT AND DETERMINE THE KIND OF PROGRESS THAT IS ACHIEVED IN RHODESIA.

AMBASSADOR YOUNG STRESSED THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THE NAMIBIA QUESTION AT THIS MOMENT IS MORE CRUCIAL THAN THAT OF RHODESIA. THE THEORY IS THAT IF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT IS MADE IN NAMIBIA, THEN IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT AN UNACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE MADE IN RHODESIA -- BECAUSE THAT WOULD NOT REMOVE THE THREAT OF CONTINUED GUERRILLA WAR INTHE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CONTINENT.

IN MISTER YOUNG'S WORDS, "IF SOUTH AFRICA ENTERS INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS IN NAMIBIA, THEN, WHY WOULD IT RUN THE RISK OF FIVE TO TEN THOUSAND CUBANS ON ITS OTHER SIDE?" AMBASSADOR YOUNG OBSERVES THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS THE KEY TO THIS EQUATION, SAYING. "I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT SOUTH AFRICANS ARE AS NAIVE AS THEY SEEM. I THINK THAT THEY CANNOT MAKE IT IN THE LAAGER, THE AFRIKAANS' EXPRESSION FOR A STRONG DEFENSIVE POSITION) IN THE WORLD WE NOW LIVE IN." (OPT) AMBASSADOR YOUG WILL CONSULT IN NIGERIA WITH PRESIDENT CARTER BEFORE THE PRESIDENT DELIVERS A MAJOR ADDRESS ON AFRICA WHICH IS EXPECTED TO STRESS A NEW SPIRIT OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT AND WASHINGTON'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TOWARD PROGRESSIVE TRANSFORMATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY AWAY FROM APARTHEID. (END OPT)

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